(d) whether the members of National Commission have been empowered to call for relevant files in any matter from any Departments and respective Departments are bound to obey the directions of National Commission; and

(e) whether the Chairman National Commission for SC/ST has judicial power to take decision in any case and Government Department are bound to implement the orders/directions in toto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No Sir. As per Clause 5 (d) of the Article 338 of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990 the National Commission for SCs and STs is required to present a report to the President annually and at such other times as the National Commission may deem fit.

(b) No, Sir. The National Commission was set up on 12.3.1992 and the Report for the year 1992-93 is under preparation.

(c) The activities of the National Commission will be reflected in their reports submitted annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit.

(d) and (e) The Commission has been empowered, while investigating any matter referred to in sub-clause (a) of clause 5- "to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the SCs and STs under the Constitution or under any other for the time being in force or under any other order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards"—or inquiring into any complaint referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause 5 "to enquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the SCs and STs"-, have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely:

(a) Summoning and enforcing attendence of any person from any part of India and examining him in oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court of office;

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents;

(f) any other matter which the President may, by rule, determine.

How these powers will be exercised will be determined by the Rules of Procedure (whenever prepared) of the National Commission. Government are certainly not bound to implement their orders/directions in toto. However, each and every recommendation of the National Commission will be considered on its merits by the Government.

Conference of National Commission for Women and Delhi Police Crime (Women) Cell

4658. SMT. VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) wehther the National Commission for Women and Delhi Police Crimes (Women) Cell held a day long Conference on 4th July, 1993, to review the functioning of the Commission and the Cell and to evolve ways to improve it;

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in furtherance thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHVARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Discussions were held inter-alia on the following subjects:—

(i) The working of Delhi Women's Cells and their mandate;

(ii) Legal Limitations; Procedural and other constraints in the working of Women's Cells;

(iii) The Women's Cells and their potential, both as a police and adjudicating body-scope for expansion of jurisdictions;

(iv) Public expectations/common/ specific complaints against women's cells. The recommendations of the Commission have not been received by the Government.

Grants released to a ALIMCO to after CBI inquiry

4659. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instituted a CBI inquiry into the whole gamut of issues relating to Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation, Kanpur;

(b) if so, when the CBI inquiry was ordered;

(c) how much grants under ADIP Scheme has been released to ALIMCO after the CBI inquiry was ordered; and

(d) whether Rules prohibit release of funds during pendency of CBI inquiry, facts in details?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) Government have asked CBI on 3.2.1992 to enquire into matters pertaining to allegations, as have been brought out in the Report submitted by Chairman-cum-managing Directors, National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation. Two officers including the M. D. have since been suspended.

It may be mentioned that funds under ADIP scheme are released to give aids and appliances to the handicapped persons. To continue the programme without break grants under ADIP scheme amounting to Rs. 8.00 crores have been released to ALIMCO, for benefitting the handicapped, during the last two and current financial years after CBI inquiry was ordered.

Grants sanctioned to helping hand Charitable Trust, Noida

4660. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned grants to Helping Hand Charitable Trust NOIDA;

(b) if so, whether the said grant has since been released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) A CBI inquiry is in progress.

Conditions of Kasturba Niketan

4661. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Indian Express dated 3rd August, 1992 regarding appealling conditions in the Kasturba Niketan housing the widows from the erstwhile East Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.